

BOOK REVIEWS

ROLAND H. WAUER. 2001. **Naturally...South Texas: Nature Notes from the Coastal Bend.** (ISBN 0-292-79144-5, hbk.). The University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819, U.S.A. (Orders: 800-252-3206, fax 800-687-6046, www.utexas.edu/utpress). \$22.95, 240 pp., 6" × 9".

This is a collection of brief essays arranged chronologically as a "natural history calendar" and sorted into 12 chapters, January through December. All were originally published in the *Victoria Advocate*, the regional newspaper. After the author retired from the National Park Service, he moved to Victoria (about half way between Houston and Corpus Christi) in south Texas, which "undoubtedly is the best birding area anywhere in the United States." This region "encompasses four rather distinct ecosystems, all within a mile circle of Victoria: the northeastern edge of the South Texas Plains, the southern edges of the Post Oak Savannah and Blackland Prairie, and the heart of the Gulf Prairie and Marshes." Wauer's attention is strongly turned to birds, but various plants, insects, and other animals are highlighted. The essays are built around his own observations and interpretations and are supported by "technical" insertions from various sources—all easily readable and enjoyable.—Guy Nesom, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX. 76102-4060, U.S.A.*

JASON F. SHOGREN (Ed.). 2005. **Species at Risk: Using Economic Incentives to Shelter Endangered Species on Private Lands.** (ISBN 0-292-70597-2, pbk.). The University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819, U.S.A. (Orders: 800-252-3206, fax 800-687-6046, www.utexas.edu/utpress). \$21.95, 271 pp., 6" × 9".

Regarding the rapid decline and loss of species: "The stakes are high, and they go to the heart of our collective responsibility to leave this land a better place than we found it. This book is an attempt to develop and refine a workable, practical, and equitable set of incentives for preserving species and the habitat they need for survival" (from the Foreword). About half of all endangered species rely on private land for their habitat, but private landowners have often opposed the regulations of the Endangered Species Act, which, they argue, unfairly limits their right to profit from their property. "In this book, lawyers, economists, political scientists, historians, and zoologists come together to assess the challenges and opportunities for using economic incentives as compensation for protecting species at risk on private property."

1. Introduction

Part I. Current and proposed incentive options for species protection on private lands.

2. The Endangered Species Act and its current set of incentive tools for species protection.
3. An economic review of incentive mechanisms to protect species on private lands.

Part II. Challenges to using economic incentives for species protection

4. Endangered species protection and ways of life: Beyond economy and ecology.
5. A critical examination of economic incentives to promote conservation
6. Appraising the conservation value of private lands.
7. Markets for conserving biodiversity habitat: Principles and practice.
8. The role of private information in designing conservation incentives for property owners.

Part III. Economic incentives for ESA reauthorization

9. Evaluating the incentive tools